

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (presently amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a device operable as a host device, the device comprising including:  
a bus;  
a first port, the first port being connected directly to a the bus;  
a second port, the second port being connected directly to the bus;  
a host module, the host module being connected directly to the bus;  
and  
means a comparator, the comparator being coupled to the bus and  
being operable for detecting the presence of another a host externally connected to  
the bus; and  
wherein the host module is responsive to the comparator for relinquishing  
host status in response to the detection by the comparator of the presence of the  
host externally connected to the bus thereto.
2. (presently amended) An ~~device~~ apparatus as claimed in claim 1, including  
wherein the device further includes a power supply for providing a supply voltage  
on a voltage supply line of the bus, the supplied voltage being less than a  
minimum allowed voltage for the voltage supply line of the bus.
3. (cancelled)
4. (presently amended) An ~~apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which  
the ~~detecting means~~ comparator includes means for is operable to detecting a  
change in voltage on a or the voltage supply line of the bus, thereby detecting the  
presence of the other host externally connected to the bus.

5. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 4, in which the change is an increase.

6. (cancelled)

7. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the device is arranged for causing at least some lines of the ~~port-host module~~ to be forced tri-state on detecting the presence of ~~another the host~~ externally connected to the bus.

8. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~including means in which the host module is arranged~~ to send a reset command via the bus in response to detecting the presence of ~~another the host~~ externally connected to the bus.

9. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the host module is arranged to including means for detecting the loss of the ~~other host~~ externally connected to the bus, and for reassuming host status in response thereto.

10. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 9, in which the ~~loss detecting means~~ host module includes means for is arranged to detecting a reduction in voltage on a ~~or the~~ voltage supply line of the bus, thereby detecting loss of the ~~other host~~ externally connected to the bus.

11. (cancelled)

12. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus device~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the device is a battery pack.

13. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus-device~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the device includes a digital video broadcast receiver.

14. (presently amended) ~~An apparatus-device~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the device is operable as a USB host, ~~wherein the first and second ports are and having at least one first and second~~ USB ports respectively, ~~wherein the bus is connectable to a USB bus, wherein the host module is a USB host module, and wherein the comparator is operable the presence detecting means being means for to detecting the presence of another a~~ USB host externally connected to the USB bus.

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (presently amended) A system including a device as claimed in claim 1, and a host device connected to the first port.

18. (presently amended) A system as claimed in claim 17, including a non-host device connected to ~~a the~~ second port of the device.

19. (presently amended) A method of operating a device operable as a host, the method comprising:

detecting a change in voltage on a voltage supply line forming part of a bus; and

relinquishing host status in response thereto,

wherein the device includes the bus having connected directly thereto: a first port, a second port, and a host module.

20. (new) A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the device is operable as a USB host, wherein the first and second ports are first and second USB ports respectively, where the bus is a USB bus, and wherein the host module is a USB host module, and wherein the method comprises detecting a change in voltage on the voltage supply line forming part of the bus thereby to detect the presence of a USB host externally connected to the USB bus.

21. (new) An apparatus comprising:

a device operable as a host device, the device including:

a bus;

a first port, the first port being connected directly to the bus;

a second port, the second port being connected directly to the bus;

a host module, the host module being connected directly to the bus;

and

means for detecting the presence of a host externally connected to the bus,

wherein the host module is responsive to the means for detecting the presence of the host for relinquishing host status in response to the detection of the presence of the host externally connected to the bus.